

アンデッドは



暖を求む

UNDEAD SEEKS WARMTH

- Volume 0 -

PROLOGUE - CORPSE COMEBACK

AUTHOR:

Endless

[Translated by: Shinsori Translations]

– SYNOPSIS –

He lost his memory, he lost his life,
a young man wakes up in different world as an undead.

He, who wanders through the labyrinth in a cold body,
yearns for warmth.

CHAPTER 1

There are three things that I don't understand.

The first being, how did I die?

I know that I'm a dead person. My face reflected in the puddle of water is lifeless, also, it is ice-cold when touched.

Yes, I'm a corpse. But when, why or where did I die?

It's almost as there's a mist in my head, I'm not able to remember anything.

The second is, my location.

Wall, floor, ceiling, all of those made those made a stone passage.

No matter where I go, the same scenery follows everywhere, it surely deserves to be called a [Labyrinth].

The place where I stand, my body does not remember at all.

Why am I in such a place?

..... No. More than that.

Why have I died, why can't I remember anything, such things are trivial.

The most important thing is, why.

Why.

Why—a dead person like me, can move around?

With a heart that does not move, a cold brain, the answer never appeared.

CHAPTER 2

I walk, walk, walk.

A stone passage that I do not recognize, I continue walking endlessly.

From the shoeless feet, footsteps with pateripateri sounds.

The clothes are tattered here and there. At least, as far as my memory goes, I don't remember wearing such clothes.

Until a while ago, I should have been an ordinary high school student.

Then how did this happen?

I don't understand, I can't understand.

The only thing I understand is, that I'm [Cold].

Cold, so unbearably cold.

Anything is fine, anything is fine as long as it warms this body up.

For that one feeling, I keep walking on the dim stone road with no end.

—I heard a sound other than that of my own feet, I think it's about an hour after I started walking.

I turn at many corners, I choose a crossroad, I kept walking like that. This is the first change since I started walking.

Kotsuri. The firm sound that I heard from the other side of the darkness.

Someone is there. Or something.

I who thought that ran towards the sound.

The movements of the body which became cold were dull compared to when I was alive. Nevertheless, I ran.

Then I turn at one corner.

There it was.

The height approximately 180 centimeters, slightly higher than myself?

A rusty sword in its hand. Traces of blood still awfully vivid.

My face unconsciously twitched. That's absurd, even though I'm a corpse I thought.

Because there it was the existence that I thought exist only in games.

Just fragments of flesh left, only bones, yet it obviously moves.

A [Skeleton] that monster looks at me with hollow eye sockets.

Kakakaka, it shook its lower jaw and laughed.

While I stare at the laughing skeleton blankly, suddenly a strange feeling made it to my head.

The information about the skeleton in front of me flows into my head without selfishly.

The feeling disappears in few seconds, I understood what kind of existence this skeleton is.

[A low-class Skeleton Soldier] (Lesser Skeleton). Magical power dwells in the bones

of a dead person, it turned in a monster that is able to move.

Almost no intelligence, it will attack anything that moves indiscriminately. It is possible to place it under control with magic.

..... Not a laughable story. With this information, I somehow understood what kind of place this is.

Apparently, at some time, without realizing I died and somehow came to a different world.

Well, let's think about it later.

For now, let's avoid the sword that guy raised.

I immediately jumped back, the Lesser Skeleton swung its sword down with all its might.

The movement is dull. It's slower than me who is a corpse.

The Skeleton body shakes katakata, it approached me while raising its sword in order to cut me once again.

However, it's impossible to cut me.

When the information about the skeleton flowed inside me, I also found out about my body to some extent.

It seems that I became [Immortal] (Undead).

The human who is supposed to be dead, but is not. A monster, just like the Skeleton.

I'm lucky to be immortal, but when cut, the blood flows and above all the body is dead so it can't be healed naturally.

In other words, I don't feel pain when cut, as everyone already guessed a zombie.

Even though I'm already completely dead, I absolutely refuse to be cut down.

There is a mountain of things I want to know, but this is not the right time for that.

Anyway, if I don't do something about this Skeleton, my body will be eternally damaged.

The choice is between fighting and running away...

Naturally I ran away.

After all, Skeleton is slow.

..... But, this is troubling.

I who has escaped from the Skeleton safely, sit in a suitable place and think.

In all likelihood, this is a different world. For some reason, I died and became a monster.

To be frank, it's incomprehensible. Perhaps because I became an undead, I don't panic in the current situation, my reasoning doesn't falter.

Why did I have a detailed understanding about the Skeleton from a while ago just by seeing it?

In the first place, why was it at such place?

Though I think a lot, there is too little information.

Foremost, it's too cold. Even though I run and move, the body doesn't warm up at all.

I don't feel any pain, why do I feel only cold so clearly?

There's a limit to unkindness, I might as well don't feel the coldness.

But it can't be helped even if I complain. In the first place, there is no one to complain to.

Even if I complain, the situation won't turn to better, I decided to move for now.

I overwhelmingly lack information. I don't have an idea how large this area is, it's probable that exploring every nook and corner is needed.

There may be more things similar to that Skeleton. If I find a different kind, I may get more information, I may understand more then.

The method of warming my body up—also what kind of place this is.

CHAPTER 3

One week has passed.

During that time, I was able to somehow understand this world.

This a dungeon called [Labyrinth of Everlasting Darkness].

Though I can't understand it clearly because I haven't arrived at the entrance yet, it seems that immortal monsters like me and gloomy monsters like skeletons gather in this place filled with darkness willingly.

I have encountered several monsters such as [Departed Soul] (Ghost), [Scavenger] (Dust Worm) and [Lower Devil] (Lesser Evil).

Anyway, I'd rather meet something like [Night Demon] (Succubus). A nature of sorrowful man. It seems that man is a stupid creature even if dead.

However, if I'm about to face such a monster, I would turn around and run away, I don't want to meet a strong one.

It's because these guys are capable of using a cheat like magic, so please forgive me for running away.

Also in that one week, the most important thing on my list was securing warmth. This obviously didn't go well.

I mean, not talking about the sun, there is no fire either. The monsters are fundamentally afraid of fire, there is no way for me to get warm.

By the way, food is unnecessary. It's natural since I'm dead.

It is possible that I'm unconsciously feeding on the dungeon's miasma or something.

Ah, I forgot something important.

It's better to say that I didn't forget, but rather that I didn't realize.

Name——What is my name?

This famous king of inventors Edison, was so absorbed in thinking, that he completely forgot about all other things.

According to a legend, when he was in Government office to process formalities, he was asked about his name by the staff, he was thinking about something else, and replied with "I don't know".

Ah well, let's put such things aside. I wonder what my name is?

To notice only after a week has passed. Even though there is no person to self-introduce to, I am such a fool.

However, I can't remember at all. Even the initials don't come out.

I burst out laughing. No, this is no laughing matter.

To forget my own name, isn't this a symptom of a younger-onset Alzheimer's? Not knowing one's name feels really bad.

However, this sense of nothing in me goes beyond nothingness...

I was troubled approximately for two hours, I decided to put this matter on hold for now.

It's not like I will be worried about introductions anytime soon.

CHAPTER 4

It has been 20 days since I fell in this situation.

I may freeze eventually.

The wall, ceiling and the floor are made from stone, there is no light. The temperature is below the freezing point.

As an undead I don't have any senses, just the sense of coldness is felt thoroughly.

Because I can't generate any warmth, the coldness keeps increasing. As I breathe in the cold air and then breath out, the coldness is still the same.

I need a fire, a fire. Yesterday, I came across a big black skink lizard [Large Black Lizard] (Black Salamander), I thought he would breathe fire, but that bastard spits out a chilly air.

That would kill me. Nah, I'm already dead.

I fled in haste, I will beat that guy eventually. I made up my mind.

Now, the heat. I need heat.

I already felt like there is absolutely no fire in this labyrinth.

Therefore, I was searching for the exit past few days, but I can't find it for some reason.

Is this bullying? Bullying this poor me who is searching for warmth?

Sensei! There is a bully in the class! I think everyone should get along well!

I yell like this, but it's in vain.

Nobody will help me, in the first place there is nobody who could understand my words, that leaves me only with moving forward.

The floor is cold~ I would like shoes at least~ I complain in my mind while tottering forward.

The twentieth day. In other words, since I arrived in this world, I've met a human.

There are 3 humans. 1 man and two women.

All members are about 17 years old..... Slightly younger than me.

The man is leading at front with a torch gets surprised at my sudden appearance.

Of course, he got surprised. Because I got surprised as well.

The man has a sword on his waist, the two women in the back have a staff and a bow respectively, are these the [Adventurers] I wonder?

This labyrinth is dominated by monsters. For there to be things from RPG's like guilds and adventurers would not be strange at all.

The adventure-ish man talks to the people beside him.

I see, even though this is a different world they communicate with talking, I understand that. However, I still don't understand why the information about the monsters flow into me when I look at them, but well that doesn't matter.

Torch! That is a torch sensei.

These guys brought me my long-awaited fire! I'm in need of something warm!

What a luck, what a good fortune. After 20 days of suffering, I have finally been rewarded.

Fortunately, it looks like these guys didn't notice that I'm an undead.

They can't see my white as a paper complexion with no blood circulation. Unlike me who is undead they don't have a good vision in darkness, In such darkness one torch is not enough.

Because I haven't suffered any injury, my body looks beautiful. The clothes are ragged, though.

Therefore, I approached these completely careless fellows and said.

Hey, give me the torch!

Ah..... I thought I would die yesterday. Though I'm already dead.

If I have to summarize, when I demanded the torch yesterday with smiling face, the girl with the staff among the three people noticed that I'm an undead.

It seems that child wasn't a [Witch] (Magician), but [Shinto Priestess] (Sister). I understood after the information come directly to my head.

The moment that staff would be pointed towards me, I would be reduced to ashes. I had a vision like that.

Certainly, if I consider the information gathered so far, against the existences belonging to the darkness element, the Shinto Priest's purification is suitable.

Of course, I fled at full speed.

When there's a life, there's a hope, though I'm dead.

Therefore, the acquisition of warmth has failed again.

However, these adventurers, no matter that I'm undead to chase after me so obstinately.

I complain, this is racism. These guys, just because the dead don't have human rights!

..... Well, if I was in an opposite situation, I would do the same thing, a walking corpse is a perfect description of a monster.

Even if I speak ill of them, it can't be helped, un. If I see you again, I will send you flying, though.

Even though if a human being would go missing and someone may grief, but unfortunately my mind is very cold because of all the coldness. There are no further thoughts.

Is it inevitable? It became inevitable. If I could revive I would like to return to my original world, but it can't be done in present conditions.

More than anything, fire.

Let's look for those fellows. I will snatch the torch if I see a change.

Incidentally, those guys probably know where the exit is.

Because of that, I'm going to look for those adventurers from yesterday.

..... It would be nice if they still were in this area, though.

CHAPTER 5

I walk sneakily along the labyrinth's wall, I going to the direction the adventurers hopefully went.

I don't know yet if all monsters here in [Labyrinth of Everlasting Darkness] are fundamentally cold, but it seems that my body is considerably susceptible to heat for some reason.

Before meeting the adventures yesterday, I felt discomfort on my skin, but because the impact of meeting a person with a torch was so high, I forgot about it.

Perhaps all of my senses have been switched to heat perception. The bone-piercing coldness may seem too much as a side effect, but for now, I'm grateful.

I know. I know the whereabouts of the adventurers. It seems that because they chased me for quite a while, they decided to stay overnight in the labyrinth.

If I remember correctly, at the end of this passage there is an open wide hall. If a monster warding magic is set up, that place becomes a perfect camp site. It's cold, though.

I'm following the tracks, getting near. From what I saw yesterday, it didn't look like they bring enough water and food with them. They are surely heading towards the exit.

If I can reach the exit, I could finally leave this labyrinth. I want to quickly get out and sunbathe on a hot beach.

With a hope of breaking out, I suppress my emotions of wanting to skip from happiness and stealthily walk along the wall.

According to the information in my brain, the girl with the bow is [Bow Hunter] (Archer).

I as an undead doesn't have a presence, but it would be troublesome if they notice me

by sound.

This matter decided my fate, you can never be too careful.

Because the stone flooring amplifies the sound, I was thankful for being bare footed.

As the time passes, I slowly approach the heat from the adventurers.

But my efforts ended in a vain.

..... Because when I arrived at the hall, only a sea of blood was left there.

—This is bad, is what I thought.

A terrible sight appeared before my eyes.

I somehow survived here—It's funny that those words come from an undead—but, this is an environment where one step wrong and I end up in another monster's belly

The only reason I'm still uninjured is because I'm an undead who doesn't tire out, doesn't need a food and water to survive.

I look at the bloody scenery several times, there are no problems.

The problem is—a stupidly large and sharp claw marks on the walls.

Certainly, the adventurers from yesterday were torn to pieces.

I can't recognize who is who anymore. Being an undead has one downfall, I don't have a sense of smell, but I can smell the scent of blood in this whole area.

I've seen such terrible sight only once before.

I have seen a similar hall to this one before, in that hall, there was a flock of Low-Grade Demons slaughtered in the same way.

Although they are Low Grade, they are still demons. Monsters here are located according to their ability and determines if you are the hunter or being hunted.

And something that can very easily hunt a colony of demons is in this labyrinth.

The blood flowing from the remains is still warm. Perhaps it's still near.

Pardon me, but I don't want to come across such thing. In addition, monsters will gather here immediately because of the scent of blood.

To think that blood is the first warm thing I can get my hands on. While thinking such, I turn around in order to get away from this labyrinth's apex predator.

From the three adventurers, only the girl [Bow Hunter] (Archer) is left without a big wound.

I noticed that she just fainted.

I walk cautiously in the passage while carrying a brown-haired girl on my back.

It looks like there are no monsters nearby. If I search for the heat, aside from the dead like me, I can see the signs of life in the vicinity.

Of course, I'm still not able to detect monsters from the same kind, like [Skeleton Soldier] (Skeleton) or [Rotting Corpse] (Zombie), but there is no place to hide from them in the first place.

By the way, a zombie is a parasite that infests a corpse, it's a fake version of me.

There are only a few in this labyrinth. They are grotesque, not a pretty sight to see.

Oh well, such thing doesn't matter, though. Now, I must leave as fast as possible.

..... Still, why from the three only this child has survived?

The other two were torn to pieces. Is the predator's intelligence low, or is there any other reason, I can think of many things, but there is too little information.

I don't even know the form of the predator. Judging from the walls and the wounds of the victims, it was a monster with [Sharp Claws] without a doubt.

No, could it also be done with magic? Either way, it's extremely troubling.

Undead's body is certainly suitable for battle, but I don't want to be wounded, moreover I don't feel like winning against something that could slaughter a colony of demons.

Above all, getting information takes the priority. For that sole reason, I carry a girl who I have no obligation to help.

She will have some information about the predator, if it turns out well, she may also know where the exit is.

As there is a chance of being attacked after she wakes up, I left her weapon back in the hall. I won't lose in a hand to hand combat with a human girl.

Truthfully, bringing a weapon may have been a good thing, but I can't use neither a bow nor magic, I could have somehow managed the sword from the male adventurer, but it was broken at the base, rendering it useless.

Particularly the clothes were a big disappointment. I want to graduate from rags.

Though the shoes were in a wearable condition, the size didn't fit at all.

It seems nothing will change for a while. Sadly.

But asking for too much is irresponsible, there's no other choice but to endure.

For the time being, I decided to take a refuge in a relatively safe zone of this labyrinth.

After thinking it through, I quicken my walking pace and go towards a place with a few creatures.

..... Iya.

To think that human body is so warm.

I'm glad I saved you.

CHAPTER 6

Although I struggle to find an exit, I came to reasonably understand the geography of this place after walking around for 20 days.

I'm now in a spacious room in which only a few monsters reside. It's a place I often use as a base when I want to rest. I gently lower down the girl on the ground.

Systematic breathing sounds and good face complexion. There are cuts and scratches here and there on her body, but it doesn't seem serious.

It would be scary if some bacteria entered the wound, I don't have any antiseptics on me so I tear off the sleeve of my clothes and roll it around the wound as a substitute for a bandage.

Even though it's tattered, I've become sleeveless on one side. It does not make much difference so all is good.

I must somehow obtain decent looking clothes soon.....

Because it would be too difficult for a flesh and blood human being to sleep on the stone floor directly, I at least put the girl's head on my lap and wait for her to wake up.

In the meanwhile my attention is firmly distributed to the surroundings, I don't forget to pay close attention to whether monsters are getting close.

But to be honest, there is a much bigger problem than monsters.

After this child wakes up, how can I avoid getting attacked.....?

..... About 4 hours passed, no probably 5 or more.

Heartbeat stopped, lack of the sense of hunger, there is no sleepiness or fatigue, my biological clock doesn't function at all.

As a matter of fact after dying, in other words since the day I started wandering around the labyrinth, the number of days that has passed is vague. I mean, you can't see outside from this labyrinth.

Returning to the topic, well, a good amount of time has passed, yet there is no sign of the girl waking up.

But she occasionally seems troubled since a little while ago, I guess she's having a nightmare.

Dreams occur in REM stage of sleep. It seems she will wake up soon.

..... Now then, what should I do?

When this child wakes up and her consciousness becomes clear, she will attack me 9 out of 10 times.

As one would expect, the body of an undead isn't so weak that it would fall behind to the barehanded young girl.

In order to get information smoothly from her, and most importantly.

I want to talk with her. I want to communicate.

Since I came to this world, the number of days that passed is certainly more than I can count on my hands.

However during this time, I have not met a creature I could connect to with words.

No matter how much dead I am, no matter how cold my brain gets, my nature won't change.

While I was alive, I was just a normal 3rd-year high school student. All I worried about were the exams and the girl I was interested in.

Such honest person like me was left alone in this cold labyrinth where even the light can't reach.

It's impossible to keep enduring like this. I kept making fun of myself to deceive myself however, I'm at my limit.

Therefore, I was glad when I first met them. (Shin: Adventurers)

No, I can't endure the coldness more than the loneliness.

Still, I was happy.

Therefore to me, it's not possible to hold down this girl with force.

However, I don't think it won't end without me being attacked.

No matter how hard I think, I can't find a solution.

Meanwhile, she woke up at last.

..... Ah, violent so violent.

When the girl woke up, she looked around the room absentmindedly, then when her eyes met mine, she screamed and hit me.

So I somehow kept dodging her who remained in a state of confusion, I attempted to persuade her that I'm not hostile, but this is another difficult struggle.

No matter what, her companions were slaughtered right before her eyes. Her fists and legs were raining down on me for good 30 minutes.

But as expected, after a while she became considerably fatigued, she became quiet when the fatigue hit her.

I keep a slight distance from her to not frighten her, I tried to converse.

The result well, you can say it went smoothly.

Because I'm undead she never completely let her guard off, but at least I got an answer to my question.

She introduced herself as Merlin. According to her, this labyrinth is located in a country called Shardia and is under that country's adventure guild jurisdiction.

Although it seems that rookie adventurers have 1 years to pass this labyrinth, the two that died apparently came with her from the same village and diligently tried to pass this labyrinth.

From the contents of the story, it seems that this labyrinth [Labyrinth of Everlasting Darkness] acts like a wall that separates the wannabes from the full-fledged adventurers.

Certainly this place is indiscriminately wide and cold, those with a living body that enters must be strong willed. Because even I, a dead person has a strong will.

Because they had steady performance as adventurers for a year and gained some confidence, they thought it was time for them to enter the [Labyrinth of Everlasting Darkness] and triumphantly return.

But they encountered a strange intelligent undead that could talk..... Is it me? They decided to chase after me. After losing the sight of me they wasted the whole day by chasing me, so they decided to stay overnight.

And then—they, unfortunately, came across [Predator], which caused that terrible scene.

When I asked what monster it was, Merlin remembered only that it was a very large beast.

She fainted because of the shock of her companions being killed in no time.

The [Predator] probably left her alive to become a bait. The remains that were left behind had traces of being eaten. The beast doesn't hunt more than it needs. It seems two people were enough to fully feed it.

Merlin burst into tears when speaking about this.

Because I heard what I wanted to hear, I will now let her cry until she is satisfied.

CHAPTER 7

I take Merlin along and walk through the labyrinth.

After lots of crying, she calmed down a little and she treated me with a gentler attitude.

After talking about myself for a bit, I apologized for surprising her when we first met.

Also, If I didn't make a contact with them, the 3 people may not have stayed overnight in the labyrinth, they could have left.

However, she said with brave heart "Since I became an adventurer, I knew something like that could happen", she didn't blame me.

I who was chased around the labyrinth only because I sought warmth, was apologized to instead.

However, after all, my mind is not settled. Therefore, I suggested to accompanying Merlin who doesn't have a weapon to the exit.

Although I say that, because I don't know where the exit is, I leave the guidance to her.

And thus, the two people walk around.

Merlin recovered a little from the shock of losing her companions and chatted with me while walking.

Those two people were her childhood friends, it seems the three of them were always together since they were young.

From her childhood memories to recent events, she talked about various things.

Though the communication was very enjoyable to me, it was pitiful at the same time.

However, if she can feel a little better by talking, I will lend her an ear.

She reported "The exit is close" soon after.

My legs suddenly stopped and I looked behind.

..... This is.

It's there. On the other side of the darkness.

An existence with powerful life force. It's just around the corner.

The moment I sense that [Existence], the chillness I felt increased by several times.

It's already near us. Merlin didn't notice yet, it's at the level I want to flee reflexively.

I who is dead understands the strength of living beings to some extent.

Most likely, or perhaps unconditionally • • Can't win. Escaping would be nearly impossible as well.

That thing should already noticed us. Slowly, but certainly getting closer.

Such thing is first. My body in which the metabolism already stopped, receives an illusion of breaking into a cold sweat.

There's a wide difference in presence between it and the monsters I encountered so far.

This fellow is without a doubt the [Predator]. There's no way it's something else.

I quickly think about turning around and a way how to correspondingly repel it.

However, the result is always the same.

[Impossible]. It's impossible to succeed in escaping. That presence of dense life force vividly shows it.

If that's the case, the thing I can now do is.

I forcibly send Merlin alone towards the exit and block the passage by myself.

I don't feel any other signs of life in the passage from here to the exit. She may escape from here safely.

..... No matter what Merlin says, I'm partially responsible for the death of her friends.

Therefore, the least I can do is to help her safely escape.

It's the only thing that the current me can do.

Merlin's heat behind me gradually weakens and then completely disappears.

According to my heat detection, she safely left the labyrinth.

From that, a slightly troubling hypothesis comes to my mind, but now is not the time to think about it.

..... Because I'm definitely going to die for the second time.

The [Predator] is coming with faint footsteps.

Probably in another 30 seconds, it would reveal its appearance.

And then—it appeared.

..... It's over.

When I think that my life is over, I thought about the priestess.

About 1 meter in height, an unexpectedly tiny body.

Very slender limbs, but I understand that they are tough almost whip-like.

The whole body covered by white scales, sharp claws that could easily cut iron in one strike.

The information about the [Predator] flowed into my mind when I could see its whole figure.

So much information flows through my mind that it comes with a headache.

A monster which mainly inhabits cold regions, and likes dead flesh above all.

In the countless number of creatures, it's at the top of food chain, the difference in status is immense between it and the undead me.

It is a [Dragon Class] — [Corpse-Eating Dragon] (Hannibal).

Give me a break.

Salivating, one of the dragon's red pupil fixes the sight at me and shines dully.

I can't feel relieved even though it's this small. Its abnormal strength is being transferred to me vividly.

If I saw the appearance of the [Predator] without knowing its strength, I would underestimate it.

But in reality, the situation was far beyond imagination.

Defeating it aside, I know that even running away would be impossible, but there was

a small hope.

I didn't abandon the hope until I saw its appearance.

However, the hope was dispersed.

[Corpse-Eating Dragon] (Hanibal), it was such existence.

The guy looks at me and groans in joy like it found the finest game.

It doesn't seem like it will let me escape.

That's only natural. The kind called Hanibal should prefer a [Dead Flesh].

After killing its prey, it will leave its flesh for a few days then eat it.

But it will never eat [Decaying Flesh]. They live in the cold regions because the meat won't decay due to the coldness.

And my body is moving through the labyrinth for 20 days after the death.

To him, there won't be a better meal.

This fellow checkmated.

Hanibal leaped at me with a terrific force, I jump to the side and somehow evade.

A big scratch is left at the place I was standing before.

Before I get up, Hanibal swings its whip-like arm again.

..... This is bad. I can't dodge like this.

But, I should have earned enough time for Merlin to escape.

With a monster with such overwhelming strength as my opponent, I abandon all hope.

I died once before anyway. If this second life can save one life before it disappears, there may have been some meaning.

If that's the case——

——Ah, it's no use.

Even if it's like an undead or something else.

I don't want to die yet.

I wanted to live more, if possible.

Even at the very end, I'm so uncool.

CHAPTER 8

..... Really, why did this happen?

Am I going to die again?

Or will I perhaps become a mindless undead?

Mou, I don't know what's what anymore. This is so messy, I feel sick.

..... It's cold.

Ah, what. If I still feel the cold, does that mean I still live as an undead?

The pain is the proof, I remember some nihilistic guy in the old days that said, the coldness is testimony that life is still present.

It was quite a story. Really.

Speaking of the outcome, I didn't die.

But why, how?

When I realized, Hanibal was blown off by something.

But what? I obviously didn't do anything.

—Just, what—

Kusukusu

I suddenly heard an audible laughter from behind.

I jumped back reflectively.

A single woman stood there.

It's not Merlin. I understood because she was close.

Her presence is different. No matter how preoccupied I am with Hanibal, I would notice the presence behind me, but I did not.

Nevertheless, after examining that existence with my awareness, it's clearly stronger than Hanibal.

A long golden hair, coincidentally her eyes were the same color as Hanibal.

Around 20 years old, a woman dressed in awfully luxurious clothes.

However, I can tell.

That woman who sent Hanibal flying, this fellow is not a human.

What kind of existence is this woman?

That information poured to my head.

..... Ah.

Mou, I don't know anymore.

Why is such fellow • • • • • Why is she here!?

—A Vampire.

With the appearance of a human, a ruthless physical strength, possessing magical powers, their lifespan while not eternal, is enormous.

They increase their strength by sucking the blood of their victims, the word [Strongest] appears in my mind.

With a large amount of magic, an absolute being to both weak and strong.

However at the same time, it is said that silver and sunlight can deal even with the top class vampire.

..... But that is only limited to vampires • • • That's what the stories don't tell.

Vampire grows for a long time, it evolves with the amount of blood sucked.

[Evolution]. The potential that is hidden within every monster, even the top class species are not an exception.

A Vampire that has lived for over 100 years and sucked blood from more than thousand people can evolve into a [Vampire Noble]. Once that happens, all the weak points vampire had disappeared.

Certainly an existence that can be called the strongest. I don't know how many existences can survive in a fight against Vampire Noble.

That monster. An existence which surpasses even that monster • • • • •

A monster designated as Demon King that could destroy the world if it felt like it, a [Vampire Lord].

Why is such a monster in this place?

An extraordinary black tea was poured into an antique teacup, I gulp slowly.

..... It stings.

As if the warmth was escaping from my body, the feeling I've forgotten for a long time.

I sat on a chair that was prepared for me and bowed towards the woman.

I was really saved. Properly speaking, I was going to end up being eaten by Hanibal.

And she saved me. One of the five only beings designated as Demon Kings [Vampire Lord].

Why is such an existence in the outskirts of this labyrinth?

Apparently, she uses this place instead of her holiday house. It seems that the miasma released at nights in this labyrinth is unusually comfortable.

There are two reasons she saved me. Simply, she couldn't stand Hanibal laying waste to her holiday house and she was curious about me, an undead with high intelligence.

Incidentally, I attracted her interest because I didn't have a single scratch on my body.

In short, Vampires tend to prefer beautiful things and it seems she was satisfied with me, so she helped me.

Oh well, I don't mind. It's the truth that I was saved.

I can't thank her enough.

This Vampire Nee-san's name is Vermut Elsaroad

She will stay here in [Labyrinth of Everlasting Darkness] for a while, and she will teach me the necessary knowledge in the meantime.

Naturally I accepted this proposal and grasped the hand that was presented to me.

I realized that I still didn't know my name.

IDLE TALK 1

FUTURE LIFE OF THE BOW PRINCESS

It has been a year since I've left home and became an adventurer.

It's was the time for me to accept guild's promotion examination and face the labyrinth.

There, I lost two of my childhood friends who left with me.

I barely survived, thanks to the undead that somehow saved me.

I ran to the inn in the town, where I locked up myself and cried for three days and three nights without sleep and food.

When I returned, I finally noticed that I'm alone.

I cried, cried and cried.

I wept myself to sleep.

I dreamed while sleeping.

About the two that died, and about that undead.

I dreamt about the undead that let me escape while he stalled the monsters that attacked me before.

"I..... I won't run! I will fight and avenge my friends!!"

"Don't say such stupid things! How are you going to fight without a weapon!?"

"Let me go! I'm!!"

"Are you going to recklessly throw away your life and go to the place your friends are!? Don't waste your life in front of the dead!!"

I, who insisted on fighting was scolded by that undead, and then.

I was told to live.

"Live! Live on the behalf of your friends! Live on the behalf of the dead me! Live on the behalf of all humans who died so far! People should live to their utmost limit until they can't carry on!!"

People should live to their utmost limit until they can't carry on.

Somehow I took those words to my heart and escaped from the labyrinth just as he told me to.

I escaped, cried and slept.

When I woke up, I mourned for my two friends.

There are no corpses. Most likely, they were already eaten by the labyrinth's monsters to the bones.

While thinking such, I became worried about that undead.

Was he also eaten by that monsters after all.....?

It will be difficult to check [Labyrinth of Everlasting Darkness] by myself.

I can't ask other adventurers for help.

I have to become stronger by myself.

I spent all my time training.

If it were not for those two sacrificing themselves for my sake, I may not have escaped.

After several months, I'm as strong as three people, maybe even stronger.

I took the same promotion exam and headed to the [Labyrinth of Everlasting Darkness].

..... That undead wasn't here.

However, the monster who ate my two friends also wasn't there.

I decided to look for him.

He might not be here anymore.

But, he may be elsewhere.

I decided to search until I can discover what happened to him.

[People should live to their utmost limit until they can't carry on]

People should try to live to their best ability to keep on living until they grow old

The profound words of that undead were already deeply engraved in my heart.



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